March 2013

FENCE

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 382

FENCE

A fence is a constructed barrier to animals or people.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice may be applied to any area where management of animal or human movement is needed.

A wide variety of types of fencing has developed. However, fencing type, materials and construction quality is always designed and installed to assure the fence will meet the intended purpose and longevity requirements of the project.

A standard fence is constructed of either barbed or smooth wire suspended by posts with support structures. Other types include woven wire, electric fence, and suspension fences which are designed with heavy, but widely spaced posts and support structures. Designs for many types of fences are available at the local NRCS field office.

Things to consider when planning a fence include:

- Topography. For ease of maintenance, avoid as much irregular terrain as possible
- Animal and human movement needs and safety
- State and local laws that may apply to boundary fences
- Animal handling, watering, and feeding requirements
- Soil erosion potential and feasibility of fence construction when planning fences on steep or irregular terrain

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Fence is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with the following practices:

- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Access Control (472)

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated Job Sheets for further information.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

Fence

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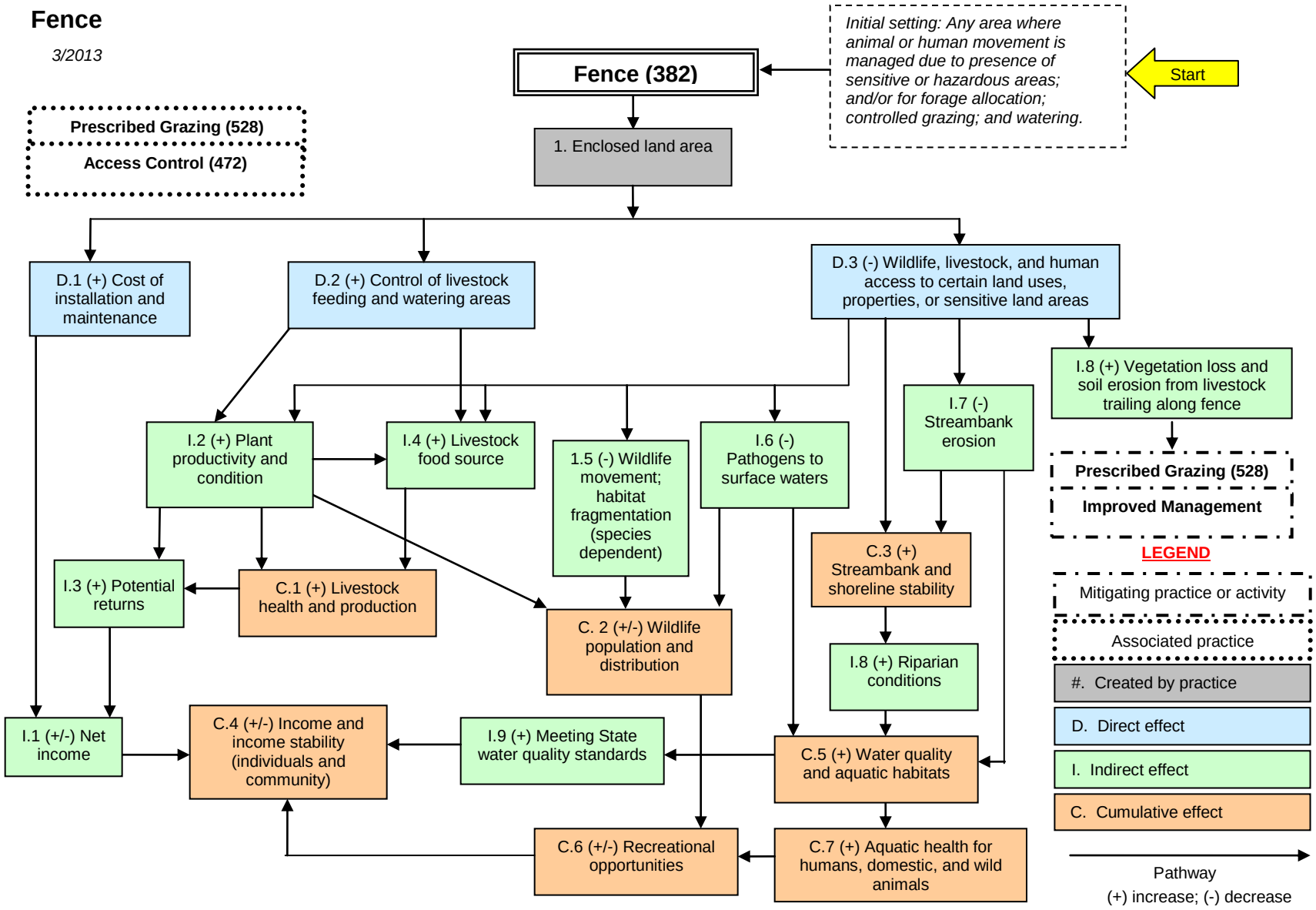

Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.